



## City of Austin – Risk factors and Criteria for Mass Gatherings

In response to the increasing concerns of COVID-19 across the nation, Austin-Travis County leaders have declared a “local state of disaster” to more proactively increase preventative measures and require mitigation plans for events in the region. Following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the City of Austin is specifically focused on mass gatherings defined as a planned or spontaneous event with a large number of people in attendance that could strain the planning and response resources of the community hosting the event, such as concerts, festivals, conferences, worship services, and sporting events.

**Events larger than 2500 people are prohibited** unless organizers can assure Austin Public Health (APH) that mitigation plans for infectious diseases are in place. Each event will be evaluated case-by-case, but the likelihood of your event remaining prohibited increases significantly if:

- There is great likelihood for extended close personal contact.
- The crowd density of the event is high.
- There are a significant number of travelers from areas currently experiencing person-to-person spread of COVID-19 domestically and internationally.
- There are a high number of guests coming from unknown locations.
- There are insufficient mechanisms in place to isolate, manage and address the needs of people should they become ill or an outbreak occur at the event.
- The plan to disseminate information about the need for basic hygiene practices is insufficient.
- There is an insufficient number of toilet facilities available for the event.
- There is an insufficient number and type of hand washing and sanitizing stations available for the event.

Events permitted by the City of Austin with over 2500 attendees will be contacted directly and required to submit responses to an Evaluation Checklist to ensure appropriate mitigation safeguards are in place.

Events permitted by the City of Austin with under 2500 attendees will continue with the normal permitting process and are not required to undergo any further risk mitigation. However, APH strongly encourages event organizers to use the Evaluation Checklist for guidance and consider adjusting your event to include appropriate mitigation strategies or cancelling the event if you are unable to appropriately put sufficient mitigation plans in place.

Events not permitted by the Austin Center for Events (ACE), but for over 2500 attendees, are required to submit responses to an Evaluation Checklist to ensure appropriate mitigation safeguards are in place. Email the completed Evaluation Checklist to [EHSD.service@austintexas.gov](mailto:EHSD.service@austintexas.gov).



Events not permitted by the Austin Center for Events (ACE), for under 2500 attendees, are strongly encouraged to use the Evaluation Checklist guidance and consider adjusting your event to include appropriate mitigation strategies or cancelling the event if you are unable to appropriately put sufficient mitigation plans in place.

Organizers can contact Austin Public Health at [EHSD.service@austintexas.gov](mailto:EHSD.service@austintexas.gov) or 311 (if you reside outside the city limits of Austin, the 10-digit number for 311 is 512-974-2000) to discuss your mitigation plans and determine whether you will be able to move forward with your event. For questions about your mitigation plans, please feel free to submit them to the City of Austin at [EHSD.service@austintexas.gov](mailto:EHSD.service@austintexas.gov) for review. We would be happy to partner with you to ensure safeguards are in place to protect the public health of our community.

If you are planning an event that is in, or extends into, Travis County, please contact the Travis County Fire Marshal at [fire.marshal@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:fire.marshal@traviscountytexas.gov), or by phone at (512) 854-4621.